

J.C. Watts, Jr.  
Chairman  
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour  
and 2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business  
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.Con.Res. 300— Recognizing and Commemorating our Nation's  
Workforce for Preparing for the Year 2000 Computer Disruptions**

**H.R. 3582—Federal Contractor Flexibility Act**

**H.R. 3577—Minidoka Reclamation Project**

**H.R. 2932—Golden Spike/Crossroads of the West National Heritage Act**

**S. 1744—Endangered Species Act Report Restoration Act**

**H.R. 1509—Disabled Veteran's LIFE Memorial Foundation**

**H.Res. 443—Centennial Raising of The American Flag in American Samoa**

**H.R. 371—Hmong Veteran's Naturalization Act**

**H.R. 4055—IDEA Full Funding Act**

**H.R. 3629—American Indian Tribal Colleges and Universities  
Improvement Act**

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## **Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the following eleven bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**H.Con.Res. 300** recognizes and commends the service of our nation's federal workforce, and all those who assisted in the efforts to successfully address the Year 2000 computer challenge. The Year 2000 computer problem, (Y2K) potentially could have been of an international problem by causing some computer systems to misinterpret the '00' in the year as 1900, rather than 2000. The preparation involved

for the Y2K “glitch” resulted in averting the crisis, improved system inventories and network reliability, and has accelerated electronic business and international cooperation. The resolution was introduced by Ms. Morella on April 6, 2000 and was not considered by a House committee.

**H.R. 3582** restricts the use of mandatory minimum personnel experience and educational requirements in the procurement of information technology goods or services unless sufficiently justified. Specifically the bill: (1) requires the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to be amended to address the use of personnel experience and educational requirements in the procurement of information technology goods and services; (2) requires that the amendments to the FAR not set forth any minimum personnel experience or educational requirements for proposed contractor personnel unless the contracting officer determines that the needs of the agency cannot be met without any such requirement and the basis for that determination must be explained in writing; and (3) requires the Comptroller General to submit to Congress an evaluation of agency compliance with requirements set forth in such amendment, together with recommendations. The bill was introduced by Mr. Davis (VA) on February 8, 2000 and was reported by the House Government Reform Committee by voice vote on April 5, 2000.

**H.R. 3577** increases the amount to be appropriated for the North Side Pumping Division of the Minidoka reclamation project in Idaho. The existing well field, which is used for project drainage, is being closed to improve the underlying aquifer. Minidoka Dam is a combined diversion, storage, and power structure located just south of Minidoka, Idaho. The North Side Pumping Division consists of some 77,000 acres of irrigable public land. The A & B Irrigation District, (operating agency of the North Side Pumping Division) in conjunction with the Bureau of Reclamation, has undertaken a program to enhance wetlands. The purpose of this program is to address the quality of runoff, both natural and irrigation return flows, which is injected into the aquifer by drainage wells, and to provide wildlife habitat and to allow reuse. Wetlands naturally filter water as it flows through the vegetation and provides a mechanism for increased natural recharge. The bill was introduced by Mr. Simpson on February 3, 2000 and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on April 5, 2000.

**H.R. 2932** establishes the Golden Spike/Crossroads of the West National Heritage Area to recognize the cultural heritage and importance of linking the United States by rail. The bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of establishing a National Heritage Corridor from Ogden to Promontory Point, Utah. The bill designates Ogden as the area’s management entity and requires that an area management plan must be submitted by the city to the Interior Secretary within three years after enactment of this measure. The bill also requires the city, in preparation of the management plan, to consider the interests of the diverse units of government, businesses, private property owners, and nonprofit organizations within the area. The Interior Secretary is prohibited from making any grants or providing any assistance after September 30, 2016. Appropriations are authorized at no more than \$1 million for any fiscal year and \$5 million total. Federal funding cannot exceed 50 percent of the cost of any activities carried out under H.R. 2932. The CBO estimates that H.R. 2932 will cost the federal government \$5.25 million over the period 2001-2005. The bill was introduced by Mr. Hansen on September 23, 1999 and was reported by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee by voice vote on April 5, 2000.

**S. 1744** restores certain reporting requirements for agencies under Section 18 of the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA) that would otherwise be eliminated as part of the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunshine Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-66). S. 1744 corrects this by providing that the 1995 Act does not apply to the Section 18 report of the ESA. Section 3003 of that Act eliminated thousands of reports that had been required by the Congress. The 1995 Act provided for a sunset date of December 21, 1999. Section

236 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2000 (P.L. 106-113) extended this deadline until May 15, 2000. This will affect a small percentage of the total number of reporting requirements eliminated by the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunshine Act.

The Section 18 report that will be exempted requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to annually report to Congress on “reasonably identifiable” expenditures for the conservation of threatened and endangered species. Under Section 18 of the ESA all federal agencies and states receiving grants under Section 6 of the ESA are required to provide information for the Section 18 report. The CBO estimates that S. 1744 will have no significant impact on federal spending. The bill was introduced by Senator Chafee on October 18, 1999 and passed the Senate by unanimous consent on March 27, 2000.

**H.R. 1509** authorizes the Disabled Veterans’ LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces. The bill ensures that establishment of the memorial shall be in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act. The Disabled Veterans’ LIFE Memorial Foundation is solely responsible for the acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of the establishment of the memorial. The CBO estimates that H.R. 1509 will have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Johnson on April 29, 1999 and was reported from the Resources Committee by voice vote on April 5, 2000.

**H.Res. 443** recognizes the historical significance of the centennial raising of the American flag over the United States Territory of American Samoa. The bill also reaffirms the United States commitment to improved self-governance, economic development and expansion of domestic commerce for the United States citizens and nationals of American Samoa. The bill was introduced by Mr. Faleomavaega on March 16, 2000 and reported by voice vote from the Resources Committee on April 13, 2000.

**H.R. 371** waives the English language requirement and provides special consideration for the civics requirement for the naturalization of an alien who: (1) was admitted into the United States as a refugee from Laos, and who served with a Laotian-based special guerilla or irregular unit in support of U.S. forces at any time from February 28, 1961, through September 18, 1978; or (2) was similarly admitted as a refugee and was the spouse of such an alien at the time of (such alien’s) application for refugee admission. The bill also requires that applications for naturalization benefits under this Act to be filed with appropriate fees no later than 18 months after enactment of this bill, and limits the total number of aliens who may be granted such naturalization benefits to 45,000. The CBO estimates that implementing this legislation will cost less than \$500,000 annually over the next two years. The Judiciary Committee passed the bill by voice vote on March 30, 2000.

**H.R. 4055** amends the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to (1) authorize funding to reach the federal government’s goal of providing 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure to assist states and local educational agencies with the excess costs of educating children with disabilities; and (2) authorize appropriations for IDEA part B programs of assistance for education of all children with disabilities, starting at \$7 billion in FY 2001 and increasing \$2 billion annually through FY 2010 to a level of \$25 billion, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year. To date the federal government has never contributed more than 12.6 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure to assist with the excess expenses of educating children with disabilities under the IDEA. The bill was introduced by Mr. Goodling and was reported by the Committee on Education and Workforce by voice vote on April 12, 2000. This bill may be deferred for consideration until later in the week.

**H.R. 3629** makes several amendments to Sections 316 and 317 of Part A of Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Sections 316 and 317 are small pools of grant money for American Indian Tribal Colleges (section 316) and Native Hawaiian and Alaskan institutions (section 317). These changes direct the Secretary of Education to prescribe regulations that will simplify and streamline the format for program grant applications so that they take into account the limited number of Tribal Colleges available for such assistance. The bill also prohibits any tribal college or university, Alaskan native or Hawaiian institution that receives such program funds from concurrently receiving funds under other provisions of Part A or B of the Higher Education Act.

H.R. 3629 also includes exempting tribal colleges from the legislatively mandated two year wait-out-period in order to be eligible for an additional grant and directs the Secretary of Education to ensure maximum equitable distribution among all eligible institutions when awarding grants. The bill was introduced by Mr. Green on March 10, 2000 and reported from the Education and Workforce Committee by voice vote on April 12, 2000.

**H.Con.Res. 310** acknowledges and commends the charter school movement for its contribution to improving our Nation's public school system and expresses the sense of Congress that a national charter schools week should be established. The resolution also expresses the sense of Congress that the President should call on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate activities to demonstrate support for charter schools throughout the Nation. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Roemer on April 13, 2000 and was not considered by a House committee.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #11, April 28, 2000.

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